

point three

July 1996



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THE MAGAZINE OF



TOCH

point three

TOC H is a Movement of people who seek to build friendships and offer service across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it.

TOC H was founded in 1915 by the Rev PB 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about TOC H and about the world, as well as a record of TOC H service. Its title derives from the Third Point of the TOC H compass, which asks us 'to think fairly'. Letters, articles and news items are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, *Point three*, at the address below.

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the TOC H Movement.

Point three is available from TOC H at the address below at 80p per issue, (Free to Members and Builders).

Acting

Editor: John Mitchell

Cover: Adrian Dudman, with
Jeanne Batthieu - during
the TOC H Halton visit
to Poperinge
(see pages 8 and 14)

The paper used is chlorine free,
environmentally friendly

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THE MAGAZINE OF



TOC H

Reg. Charity No. 211042

TOC H brings together people of different
ages, viewpoints, races and faiths in mutual
understanding. We base all our work on our
Christian principles.

Editorial

LESSONS FROM THE PAST

Most of the women I know would be extremely rude to me if I likened them to a 'Beauty Queen'. For those of us who remember the distant, and degrading, Miss World contests, it seems a real step forward that such exhibitions have ceased.

Things were very different in the society in which Toc H 'Came of Age' in 1936. In one of her letters to Chile (see pages 4 and 5) Lucilla Reckart wistfully remarks that it would be nice to have been mistaken for 'Miss Chile'! In other ways too, her letters paint a fascinating period picture - and remind us of some very different attitudes in those days. Not least the very fact that many of the Festival events in 1936 were restricted to Toc H (i.e. the men) or L.W.H. (the women). Some things have improved!

But in other ways she paints a moving picture of the vibrancy, the warmth and the care of the Toc H 'family', as she experienced it. One notable aspect was that, almost wherever she went in her early days in England, she was expected and given a warm, and informed, welcome. Someone had done their homework!

Similarly, I recall my first days as a Marksman in London, some twenty years later. When I arrived, one fellow resident was on hand to welcome me, and knew all about me. Moreover, his role, as my designated 'host', was to make sure that my first two weeks were as easy as possible, and that meant planning his time so that he was in the Mark every evening for my first two weeks. In my turn, I had to give the same commitment to a newcomer some months later. It was a planned welcome, at some inconvenience to the 'host', but as a result the new person felt valued and welcomed.

The moral seems to me that care for people needs to be planned - we need to do serious homework on it - and it can be costly in time. What is not enough is to leave it to the probability that someone will do it - 'after all, we're such a friendly bunch!!' In a caring community, 'probability' is not good enough. We have to ensure it. And that means that someone must do the homework - as they did for Lucilla in 1936!

John Mitchell

TO ALL OUR READERS:

Due to an error by the Post Office, for which we have received apologies, a number of copies of the May *Point three* were lost. We have sent duplicates to those we know who missed out, but if you have not received your May issue, please let us know at Toc H Central Services, Wendover, and we shall mail you a copy (while stocks last).

Please also note that *Point three* appears TEN times per annum. That means every month EXCEPT August and January - so if you do not receive a copy in August, don't worry! None of us will!

FAREWELL AND THANKS

We bid farewell to Ruth Boyd who left the staff at the beginning of May. Ruth, with the help of Jenny Small, edited *Point three* between 1990-1996.

We wish them both all the very best for the future.

FIVE YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS IN POPERINGE

To be honest, I wasn't sure what I'd end up with, having never been on a Toc H project before, but one thing I definitely got was plenty of laughter. Although I can't compare it to previous years, I'm sure from everyone's point of view, it was a great week..."

(Jenny-Lee Spencer, volunteer)

"Listening to the person on the other side is the first step toward lasting peace"

*I recently came across this apparently random line in a *Time Magazine* article. It stuck in my mind, because for me that simple sentence describes what Toc H is really all about. And the International Project at Talbot House is probably one of the best illustrations of this. 1995 not only marked 80 years of Toc H and Talbot House, but also the fifth anniversary of this international Toc H event in Poperinge.

The 1995 project brought together eight people from five different countries (Belgium, Germany, Britain, Greece and France). The programme was packed. For three days, under a burning sun, we fought our way through bramble bushes and weed at the Pool of Peace. We struggled through a rush course on World War History, visited a World War II exhibition, and toured the Salient. Subjects such as stereotypes, prejudice, national and cultural differences were discussed. We were also able to give full vent to our creativity, building newspaper towers and modelling clay figures depicting our favourite culture (something I am definitely not good at, just ask the others). Brugge gained the majority vote of the group for the mystery day trip, and Tubby's Poperinge Toc H Group set up a barbecue in the Talbot House garden. And then I have not even mentioned all the media attention! We had articles and photos in no less than four newspapers, and even an item on regional TV! As

Jenny-Lee puts it: "It is hard to struggle with secateurs and pose seductively at the same time..."

But what I will personally remember best from this event, apart from the friendship and fun, is the way the group dealt with the central theme "War and Peace". For the first time we included World War II in our programme. The immediate reason was a unique exhibition at Brussels, "*I was 20 in 45*" a comprehensive view on world conflicts, which in this anniversary year could not be missed. But as World War II conjures up strong emotions with many people, difficult and delicate subjects were bound to come up during the discussion sessions. I was rather worried about how the group and myself were going to handle those. On the other hand, it was felt that we, as participants, and the project itself, could only benefit from a new challenge like this.

And we did, in more than one way. One occasion stands out in my mind. After visiting the exhibition in Brussels, and attending the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, we gathered that evening in the Upper Room for a feedback session on the day. It was an emotional experience for all of us, just to sit there, in that very special place with that immensely important history, to listen and talk. Difficult subjects were not avoided; on the contrary, we all felt a strong need to address them.

Diccon Lowe writes: "*The project was brilliant in every part. On reflection it just seems better than when I was actually there. The best part for me still remains the visit to the Menin Gate, but that has a very personal edge to it. I think that World War II should be included in future projects because it can open up a wider debate as many people have strong views about it. The project made me think about things I normally wouldn't have considered.*"

*John Wallach, founder of Seeds of Peace
(a programme that brings together children from opposite sides of their countries' conflicts)

by MARTINE BOONE



June 1936 saw the 21st birthday of Toc H. A week of festivities, attended by over 12,000 members, marked the event. These included Services at St Paul's and St. Martin-in-the-Fields, social gatherings and rallies, a Reception at the Guildhall, and chartered boat trips on the Thames. For many, the high points were two major events at the Crystal Palace, one for Toc H and one for the League of Women Helpers (as it then was), each of which included a mass lighting of Toc H lamps.

One overseas member who was

present, representing Chile, was Lucilla Rekart (then Lucilla Trudgett) who died in 1995. We have recently been privileged to read four letters she wrote to Margaret Henry, a member of her own branch in Santiago, describing her experiences of arrival in England, and during these celebrations. We thank Margaret (who now lives in Tavistock) for letting us see these, and we print below some extracts (with Editor's comments in italics) which we hope will give a flavour of the period, and of this unique occasion.

"May 10th: After getting a little lost on her way to Tower Hill, Lucilla eventually "spotted an old old door with a sign 'New June' on it, and also a Toc H Lamp... a very nice girl received me and said, 'Are you the member we are expecting from Chile?' I must have looked it very strongly! They made such a fuss over me - they positively cackled over me, and I felt fine. I was taken in.... and given tea. A smart girl brought it in to us, with biscuits, and thanked us for having it! I have never in my wildest dreams heard of anything so polite as the people of London."

'New June' was the then HQ of the Toc H League of Women Helpers. On her way across to see All Hallows Church, Lucilla asked her guide why it was called New June. She replied "that New June is a very old house... It belonged to a lady of doubtful reputation who enjoyed the unplatonic friendship of one of our Kings, one of the Stuarts, and in a burst of romance they called it New June! and as names in England don't change for millions of years, this name hasn't."

In All Hallows Lucilla was "introduced to people here and there, but my friend never caught my name and introduced me as Miss Chile. I was hoping she had taken me for the beauty queen, but I'm afraid she hadn't!"

During her time in England, Muswell Hill branch invited Lucilla to join them.

Friday 8th: "I arrived there and was delighted to find everyone expecting me with, metaphorically speaking because people in England don't, open arms. They were charming and had heard all about me.

Did I really come from Chile? What is it like? Did I learn to speak English in three weeks? Did I really know how to speak Spanish? and they all beamed and smiled, and I was the heroine of the hour.. and I liked it.

"There were about thirty ladies present... and also a dog. You can't go anywhere here without finding dogs, and tea! Take either away from English people and they languish - take both, and they die!

'No work was discussed.... but they were all very excited about some sports they were going to..... and next Friday, instead of an ordinary meeting, they are going to meet at 9.00p.m., and rush around London all night, visiting factories, and winding up at Covent Garden market at 4.00a.m. They asked me to join them..... but I declined, with many thanks."

LATE JUNE.

"The first item I went in for of the festivities was a Rally at Fleet, in Hampshire, on June 18th. Arriving at Fleet (railway station) I spotted a group of men looking as lost as I was but we were immediately pounced upon by a matey man from Toc H" (the group came from Singapore, Montreal, Buenos Aires and Chile).

"We had a delightful time at the Rally - tea, community singing, etc" The programme also included a visit to the Aldershot Tattoo. "I can't possibly describe the tattoo to you. It was too wonderful for words I don't think I have ever admired or enjoyed anything in my life as much..... there were thousands upon thousands of people, and motorcars, but everything is so marvellously well organised in this wonderful country that

there wasn't a hush anywhere."

"On Sunday June 21st began the Festival week in London... I went to a special service for Toc H at St Martin-in-the-Fields in the morning, and in the evening to a service taken by Tubby Clayton at All Hallows. Needless to say it was crammed.

On Monday 22nd, Tubby Clayton met all the overseas members.... in the wonderful, amazing and beautiful old Guildhall in the City of London. It is the ancient town hall of London, and very appropriate for a gathering of the people of the Empire. Tubby gave us a lovely talk of welcome - he has the most charming personality. Suddenly, when I was talking to some new friends..I heard my name called excitedly - there was Mary Turner from Valparaiso... we flung our arms around each other's necks, and I explained to my amused companions that that was our national greeting!"

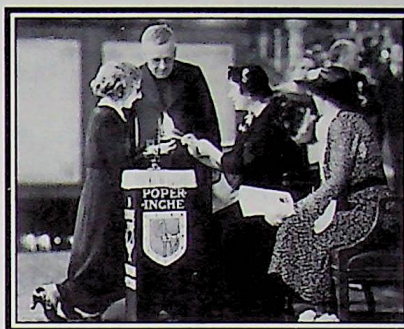


The Duchess of York talking to an overseas member at the Duchess of Devonshire's Reception

That night Toc H had its service of Rededication at St Paul's Cathedral, presided over by the Archbishop of York. The overseas members of L.W.H. were invited to it. The next day there was a Garden Party at Carlton House, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, where the Duchess of York (now the Queen Mother) was to meet the overseas members of L.W.H. "That garden party was a dream - how can I describe the magnificence of this wonderful house and garden. We were ushered in by the most amazing array of footmen, the last one of whom' confidentially asked us our names, and then proceeded to boom it out in a stentorian voice to the assembled lords and ladies, dukes and duchesses. At this the Duchess of Devonshire,

a charming and very handsome lady, swished up to us and, in the most matey way, had a little chat with us. Then we were taken up by her pals who spoke to us like old friends.... We were all introduced to the Duchess of York separately, and we had to curtsy and shake hands - it was a scream.... and she had the patience to speak to each one of us. The Duchess is really very pretty, and has an exceedingly sweet face, and is very charming."

"You cannot imagine the fuss they have all made about our Chile group. Chile sounds mysterious and romantic, and I can safely say almost anything about it, and they'd swallow it all. You should have heard some of my descriptions of earthquakes and revolutions!"



Watched by Tubby Clayton, the Duchess of York lights a new Branch lamp at the Crystal Palace

On Friday 26th the LWH had its rededication service in St. Paul's, in the presence of the Duchess of York.

Afterwards, "we all dashed off to the

Crystal Palace in trains. After a picnic meal we had the Ceremony of the Lighting of the Lamps by the Duchess of York - it was a very beautiful sight....The Crystal Palace is tremendous, and the theatre place where we were was absolutely full from all over the world with their standards, lamps, rushlights and tapers..... The 'Coming of Age' masque was lovely - I wish I could see it again...

.... On Sat 27th we again went to the Crystal Palace for a Garden Party for the whole crowd - men, women, overseas and home... about 12,000 people there! ...then came the Men's ceremony, with only overseas women invited. We had the very best seats and a good view, especially of the Duke of Kent, representing the King.... and the evening finished with another performance of the Masque."

POSTSCRIPT. The Crystal Palace was destroyed by fire on the night of 30th November 1936. It is a matter of conjecture whether someone left a Toc H lamp burning!



FYC

Family

25 Years of



Our Director has recently been in contact with Valerie Riches, Director of Family & Youth Concern, to explore whether there are areas in which Toc H can work together in partnership with them. Here Valerie outlines the foundation, purposes and work of this charity.

It seems hard to believe that rather less than half a century has elapsed since the permissive society burst upon the western world. It was in the 1960s that sexual revolutionaries promised us a new golden age of freedom and unalloyed happiness. We were assured that freely available contraceptives provided by the state to all, irrespective of marital status and age, with abortion as a back-up policy, would ensure that every child would be a wanted child. We were told that easier divorce would provide a route to domestic

harmony, that pornography would release tension and reduce sexual crimes, and so on.

It was not long before the effects of that short-sighted liberalism became apparent. Tried and tested values and standards were jettisoned, a spate of permissive legislation followed, while an enthusiastic media spread the message far and wide before the truth had time to get its boots on. The outcome was not true freedom, but a bitter legacy of broken homes, disease, and a deep well of human unhappiness into which children were plunged.

'A DECENT WAY OF LIFE'

Yet there were some who had the foresight to see the dangers. One such was a Jewish general practitioner, Dr Stanley Ellison, who in 1969 wrote a letter to The Times expressing his disquiet. He appealed to men and women who believed in the 'decent way of life' (a phrase which has a quaint, nostalgic sound in 1996) to step forward and articulate their opposition to all that was immoral and 'sick' in our society. Men and women did respond to his call. In 1971 they formed a society now called Family & Youth Concern and launched it with the express aim of upholding the family founded on marriage as the natural and fundamental group unit of society, entitled to protection by society and the state.

At this time my husband and I were trying to bring up our children to a 'decent way of life' against great odds it seemed to

us. I was also working as a medical social worker in the obstetrics department of a London teaching hospital, coping with the almost intractable problems of a growing number of young pregnant girls faced with choices which, one way or another, would have a profound effect on their futures. We gladly responded to Dr Ellison's plea, and a year later I was asked to administrate the Society, a decision I have never regretted.

As the Society grew it became clear that its claims had to be substantiated by statistics and research. Thus it was that the charity, The Family Education Trust, was formed in 1973 and it has since promoted and published a wide range of publications, videos, research and educational resource material.

Currently we have three major projects under way. The first is to try and save the married couples' allowance (MCA) which is being whittled away by the government. Many people do not realise that married one-earner families are being positively discriminated against by the fiscal system. For example, a lone mother with two small children can work for 20 hours at £4 an hour and end up with a net income of £163 after rent and tax. A married father of two small children working for 40 hours at the same rate receives £130.95. In other words he gets £33 less for working full time than the unmarried mother gets for half-time work. Official fiscal recognition of marriage, as carrying special responsibility of importance to society, would return some status and dignity to the traditional family.

and Youth Concern

Defending Marriage and The Family

'BROKEN HOMES AND BATTERED CHILDREN'

Our concern about the effects of the breakdown of the family led to extensive research into the family background of proven cases of child abuse. The result was the publication *"Broken Homes and Battered Children"*. This revealed that child abuse was closely related to family structure and that the safest environment for children is with two married parents. Even if one of the spouses was not the natural parent, marriage provided a safer background than two natural parents cohabiting. We hope that this research will help to bring home the importance of marriage to policy makers and the general public.

There is no doubt of the immense cost to the nation associated with young teenagers' sexual behaviour - free contraception, abortions, single-parenthood, depression, disease, secondary infertility. We are equally concerned about the lack of self-worth and unhappiness which promiscuity engenders in the young. Teenagers who become sexually active early have more sexual partners per year and throughout their lifetime than those who wait. A succession of sexual partners throughout life means a succession of broken relationships, resultant children growing up with a series of 'uncles', and all the tragic effects of uncertain, unstable family life. They are also more likely to grow up to repeat the pattern of their parents' behaviour.

Thus the second current project concerns the inadequacy

of sex education in schools in enabling young people to withstand the pressures from all around them to become sexually active at an early age. By teaching methods of contraception and informing where abortions can be procured in a moral vacuum, many sex education programmes appear to condone or even approve of early sexual activity among teenagers.

SEX EDUCATION

The Family Education Trust, therefore, commissioned a study into sex education in schools. A number of experts in the subject contributed chapters and *"TRIED BUT UNTESTED: The Aims and Outcomes of Sex Education in Schools"*, has been launched. The book is the first comprehensive critique of the subject. It includes a survey of the history and content of sex education programmes for schools which identifies the ideologies lying behind their development; a psychiatric assessment showing the threat some programmes pose to normal sexual development; a detailed review of local authority policies and laws governing the subject; and the impact of AIDS on sex education. Parents are also provided with useful guidelines for protecting the welfare of their children. The book is proving to be an unprecedented success.

Fundamental reassessment of the values with which our children are being raised is clearly necessary. Many children in society have no idea of the difference between right and wrong. To counter this we have

produced an important educational resource on good citizenship entitled *"THE OTHER 3Rs (Responsibility, Relationships and Respect)"* to meet the demands of the national curriculum in health and religious education, both personal and social. It explores the role of the individual in the community and the importance of finding a goal and purpose in life. It encourages a deeper understanding of relationships among peers and the family, and respect for human life.

We believe that *"THE OTHER 3Rs"* will provide the tools to help parents and teachers to guide the young towards more reflective, more responsible behaviour and therefore help to establish an integrated society.

There are clearly many common concerns between Family & Youth Concern and Toc H. As we reach 25 years of service to the family, we offer our warm congratulations to Toc H for its 80 years of splendid service to society. In the divisive times in which we live there can be no more important task than bringing people together, strengthening communities and bringing the light of friendship and peace, so badly needed in our times.

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Valerie Riches

New Growth in Halton

The 'Families under Pressure' Scheme Expands

Toc H in Halton, (which some readers will know better as Runcorn and Widnes), is going from strength to strength, with new expressions appearing with encouraging frequency.

The art group, run by Glenys and Carol, meets every Tuesday with a basic membership of twelve, but this shoots up to forty during school holidays. The group are delighted that one definite outcome is that Sandra, having had her 'art' taste buds tickled, is now attending an art course at college.

It is much more than just an art class, but a real 'group', as was shown when, during a reflection time, they heard that one member was having trouble with her garden - the group responded by swapping art brushes for wellies and lawn mowers, so they showed they had green fingers as well as artistic talent!

Their efforts were much appreciated, and were rewarded by afternoon tea 'Just like Grandmother used to make'.

The fundraising group, Penny, Norma and Maureen, have been working very hard running events such as Family Bingo, a Family Fun Day, Tombola and Raffles... and more events are planned. They look forward to a visit from Stuart Wroe for some more training in fund raising. The work of this small group is vital as it supports all the other work.

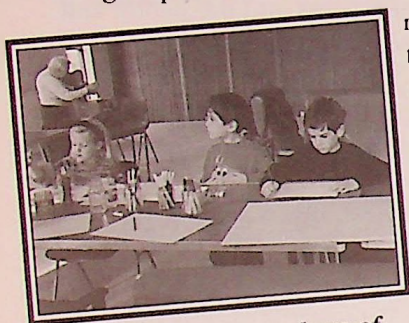
The newest group, run by Chris and Keith, is the Fishing Club. This aims to bring the whole family together to learn the sport of fishing, enjoy nature at close quarters, introduce a peaceful time into family life, and improve the local community by clearing ponds and riverbanks. A few mums are worried about finding maggots instead of marmalade in the fridge!

A group of new members, together with Adrian Dudman (see front cover) visited Talbot House, Poperinge, at Easter. This helped to

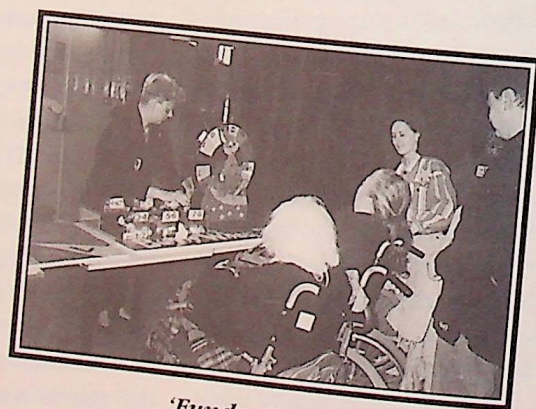
cement the group and gave them the experience and confidence to run two trips to Lindridge House, for new families, on their own. It also helped them to understand the history of Toc H. After the trip, Carol Evans, of the art group, wrote two poems, one of which reads:

*As I sat in the chapel
I felt others were there.
No, not Jo and Glenys
Or the friends I was with,
But those long since passed through
Like some close touching mist.
The young men, the brave men
Who had sat there before
Their faces reflecting
Those lost smiles once more.
But this is the feeling
That comes from this place,
Humility, love, and a deep sense of grace.*

The Family Group, run by Helen and Paula, plans events for families to attend, such as trips to Camelot and Flamingoland. It is hoped that when families have had a 'taster' they may wish to join one of the groups. Future plans include trips to Lindridge, a week-end at the Toc H Rhyl Centre, a day trip to Camelot theme park, a trip to Cadbury's World, and fun and games at Norton Priory.



Some younger members of the art group

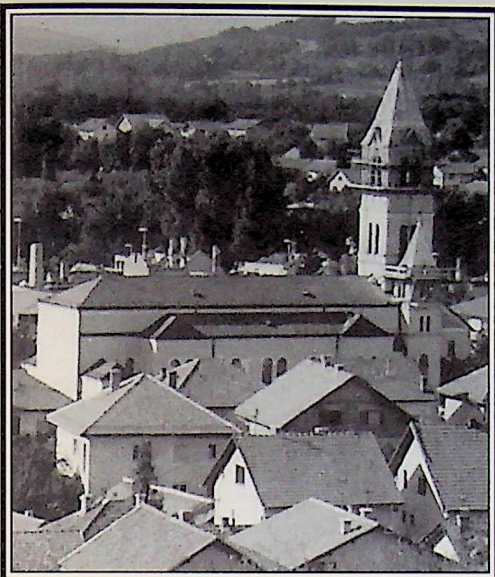


'Fundraising'

POSTSCRIPT. A year ago, the transport needed for a group trip was staff member Jo Whiteside's car. Today, it is a 55-seater bus!!

Spring in Bosnia

I wrote to *Point three* in the Autumn about a week-end at Lindridge House with a group of Bosnian refugees. I am now working in Bosnia, and realising why that weekend at the TOC II centre in Devon was so popular with the Bosnians.



The town which is called Gornji Vakuf by its Muslim residents, and Uskoplje by its Croat residents. It is the base of the British IFOR contingent.

Bosnia is beautiful, especially at this time of year, as the hills are covered in new buds, blossom (cherry, apple, lilac) and spring flowers. The green that surrounds our town is so fresh and luscious. I am thankful that, whatever havoc the war has wrought, it has failed to destroy this magnificent countryside. As I see people digging their plots of land, or walking along clutching armfuls of lilac, I reflect on the highrise blocks in the middle of Coventry or Birmingham where I know Bosnians are living. I also remember the ecstatic reaction of the mothers and children as we set foot in the garden at Lindridge.

Since arriving here in January

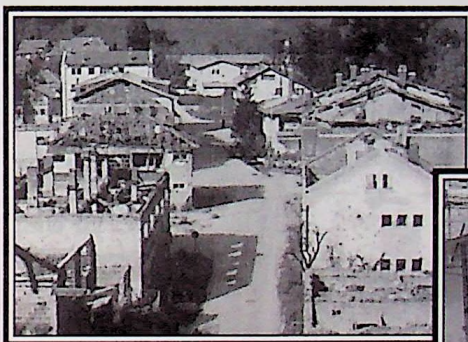
I have begun to learn why it is difficult for many Bosnians to settle down in Britain. In this small, divided and destroyed town I can scarcely walk down a street without receiving a friendly greeting from one of the locals. Everyone seems to have time to stop for coffee and a chat, and that is an important part of life.

Strangers like myself are welcomed and there is none of the apparently cold reserve that often greets foreigners in Britain.

I will never understand how such a community could end up divided down the middle; despite the so called Croat/Muslim Federation, the ceasefire line of Spring 1994 still separates the Muslims and Croats. This is what brings me here - to work on a social reconstruction project which has as its aim to restore civil society in Gornji Vakuf, to support and enable those individuals within the community who express interest in reconciliation. Having previously worked

mixed group of women. Mixed activities are few and far between in the town, and it is clear that there are many people who are still not ready to take part. However there is enough interest to make a real Muslim/Croat mix possible. After the hours teaching we sit and drink coffee, the conversation ranges from the difficulty of English pronunciation to enquiring about friends that have not been seen or heard of for four years. Rather than coming home from a long day's work exhausted and drained, I return feeling empowered and excited. The women are some of the first people in town to risk 'crossing the line' to the other side and meeting together. I remember the joy of one woman when she discovered that her previous tenant now has a three-year-old child.

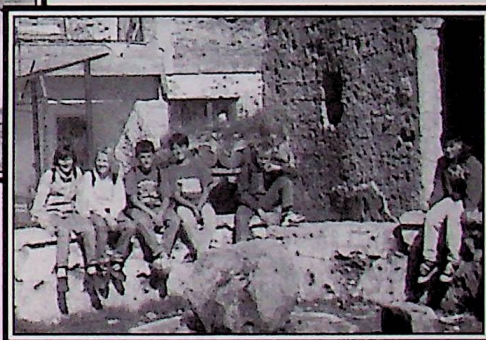
These are big steps being taken in the lives of individuals, but small steps in terms of real peace in Bosnia, but nevertheless I feel there is reason to hope. As refugees gradually return from their so-called 'Safe havens' abroad, I hope that they also will see these signs of hope amidst large piles of rubble and ruin, as I have seen daffodils grow in the devastation of what was once someone's home.



War damage

with the victims of this war, it is inspiring to be working with people who are determined to start repairing the damage in their town, to rebuild shattered lives and bring former friends together again.

A significant part of my work at present is teaching English to a



Children in the ruins

Bronwen Mitchell

Focus ON OUR CHARITY SHOPS

Middlesbrough



Children at an orphanage in Kutno presented with a new bicycle and other gifts

The accompanying photographs show how far and wide the family of TOC H touches people. One is of residents at the 'Malina' old people's home in Kutno in Poland, the other, of children at an orphanage in the same town.

Many charity shops earn a few pennies by sending unsold clothing to a rag man. The TOC H Thrift Shop in Cleveland uses its garments to help people

in need in Poland. Passed on to a local charity sending aid to Poland, the Thrift Shop's garments are converted into much needed equipment and aid. The children at the orphanage have just received a new bicycle, amongst other gifts.

Shop manager and TOC H member Mrs Edie Colman has recently received two small gifts as a thank you to TOC H from Poland. These were made in Krakow by men taken in off the

streets by a Brother Joachim.

Besides its international service, the Thrift Shop on the St Hilda's council estate of Middlesbrough stands as one of TOC H's success stories. The shop only exists as a result of the tenacity of Edie. Edie, supported by her husband Tom and a dedicated team of volunteers, serves an area of very real need. Many of the families on the estate are one-parent families surviving on benefits.

Unlike many high street charity shops, the shop is seen as a lifeline - a source of good cheap clothing such as babies' clothes, children's clothes and warm winter coats.

The shop is Edie's way of paying TOC H back for the Movement's care and attention whilst she was a member of a local Friendship Circle. Through her hard work and service, Edie has more than repaid the debt of thanks. The Movement as a whole should be thankful for this personal, and TOC H, success story.



Old people's home 'Malina' at Kutno, Poland

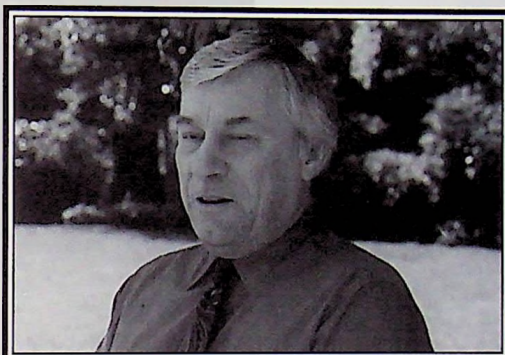
Stuart Wroe

BEHIND THE SCENES



Barbara Martin, Head of Support Services. Photo: Alan Johnson

In this fourth look at Toc H 'behind the scenes', we focus on the work at Wendover. When Toc H moved into the Wendover building (formerly a Toc H Services Club for R.A.F. Halton) it was known as "Toc H Administrative H.Q." This soon became just 'Toc H H.Q.' and was also often referred to as 'Head Office' by some members. In order to stress its role of supporting and servicing our membership and staff 'out there in the field', the C.E.C. has recently agreed that, in future, it should be known as Toc H Central Services. This article, (together with another in the next issue), outlines the new shape of these services.



John Matthews, Head of Finance & Properties. Photo: Alan Johnson

TOC H Central Services

There are four departments now which make up Central Services: Support Services, Finance and Properties, Development, and Directorate. We look at the first two of these in this issue - and shall cover the others in the next issue.

Support Services

Manager: *Barbara Martin*
 Membership Secretary: *Hazel Scarlett*
 Print Room Operator: *Nikki Mackenzie*
 Stores and Despatch: *Michael Tomlinson*
 Reception: *Pat Phillips and Helen Stone*

The Support Services Manager is responsible for running the Department and is also Servicing Officer to the C.E.C. manages elections to the Central Council, and organises Central Council meetings. The department also deals with branch mailings, general communication with members, *Point three* distribution, maintenance of membership and branch/group lists (recording additions, amendments and deletions), advising members and branches on the 'rules', and dealing with general enquiries from members, branches and groups.

The department also deals with print orders, and maintains supplies of stationery, literature and all general materials required to support members and staff. In addition to their normal reception duties, the two part-time receptionists also give general secretarial help.

Finance & Properties

Head of Finance & Properties: *John Matthews*
 PA to Head of Finance & Properties: *Janet Meacham*
 Accounts/Salaries Clerk: *Angela Gregory*
 Accounts Clerk: *Tony McMullen*

The Head of Finance & Properties, supported by the PA, acts as Servicing Officer to the Finance & Properties Subcommittee and the Investment Team. The department is responsible for managing all aspects of the Movement's financial dealings. This includes recording all income and expenditure, payments of salaries and staff/member expenses, the management of covenants and other tax-related giving, VAT matters, and the collation and production of appropriate accounts. It also maintains an overview of all Toc H properties and their maintenance, all aspects of Toc H insurance, and the purchase, sale and maintenance of all Toc H motor vehicles.

The department is the main Toc H link to our auditors, the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise (VAT), the DSS, the Charity Commissioners, and other appropriate bodies.

SECOND SEVERN CROSSING

A group of members from the South West and South Wales took the chance to walk over the new Severn Bridge - on the



day it was open to pedestrians - to raise funds for Lindridge House. Daphne Dawes, South West Regional Chairman (seen here, with balloons) tells more:

I applied for, and received, the maximum number of tickets for the unique opportunity to walk across the new bridge. The 50 tickets were either sold for £1, if the recipient was willing to get sponsorship, or £5. The sponsor money was going to Lindridge House so it made a good publicity focus for our work there. The great day, Sunday 12th May, arrived with warm sunshine.

The organisation for the 16,000 participants from the 360 Charities represented must have been very difficult, but although there were a few queues (for loos) and waits for buses to and from the car park and the Bridge, there were no grumbles. There was a very happy atmosphere and it was quite an occasion. Most charities had some distinguishing item of clothing and it was interesting to see who was taking part. We were very proud to wear the Toc H tabards, although we got very hot! We started at noon and everyone in our group completed the six miles and has the certificate to prove it. It was good to have members from South Wales walking with those from Avon and Somerset Districts - the start of "working" together in Division 2. Also, I was very pleased to receive generous sponsorship from Newport, Tetbury, Gloucester, Swindon and Chippenham Branches as well as those in Avon and Somerset. The total received so far is more than £1600 which is wonderful - for a Sunday afternoon stroll across a bridge!

Energetic fundraising! Volunteers attached to the TOC H Derby Children's Camp prepare for a sponsored climb in aid of funds - taking in Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis.



Photo: by courtesy of the Derby Evening Telegraph

Farewell to 'Branch-out'

Branch-Out Friendship Circle, in Middlesbrough closed at the end of April after many years. The members marked the occasion with an outing to Whitby.



Photo: John Dunwell

BRANCH NEWS • BRANCH NEWS

TOC H HAZEL GROVE

The annual report from Hazel Grove branch bears witness to the fact that, as Secretary Edward Pym says, 'Seven quite ordinary people, together, can do extra-ordinary things'.

The following items are drawn from the report:

"It is estimated that at least 5,000 books are placed in the hands of patients at Stepping Hill Hospital over the year, and much friendship has ensued, some culminating in the writing of letters; 500 pairs of spectacles have been sent to a priest who works beside the

River Amazon, and, with the help of Toc H at Buckley, Clwyd, we are aiming at a further 500; 10,000 postage stamps have been collected and prepared.

The monthly book service to the seven units of the Psychiatric Wing has proved to be far more popular than could have been imagined. The service to the Maternity Wing should be reintroduced soon."

The report pays warm tribute to the numerous volunteer librarians who help the branch to maintain this excellent record.

Thank you Dennis Till

Dennis Till has retired as South West Regional Secretary after 12 years of quiet efficiency and reliability, and will be missed. The photo shows Daphne Dawes, Regional Chairman, making a presentation to Dennis at Regional Council. Unfortunately, Dennis broke his ankle and could not get to the 'Festival of the Sea' in Bristol, which was to have been part of his present.



Town and Gown

In an effort to establish greater ties with the Buckingham University, Buckingham Branch arranged a Concert on 18th May. The United Gospel Choir of Buckingham took part, supported by See It And Believe It Mime Troupe, from Ruislip. Ken Cockerton acted as M.C. Des Bonner tells us it was very well attended and that the audience appreciated the quality of the singing and performance. Buckingham Branch hope that this is just the first of many similar events.

Many members will have warm memories of Joyce Green, who worked at TOC H Headquarters for many years, latterly as Assistant General Secretary. Joyce has now moved to Leicester, and has enthusiastically taken on some new 'jobs' as a TOC H member. She is a volunteer with Leicestershire Talking Newspapers, which this year celebrates its 21st anniversary. The Sound Services section of the Royal Leicestershire, Rutland and Wycliffe Society for the Blind, through its fully equipped studio, tries to ensure that all people with a visual impairment have the same choice of printed material as sighted people. Newspapers are read onto tape by teams of volunteers. The photo shows Joyce (on left) at work.



Photo: by courtesy of the Leicester Mercury

BRANCH NEWS • BRANCH NEWS

Readers' Letters

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Since receiving 'A Resource Paper for Members' some weeks ago, I have given it a great deal of thought, but have come back again and again to the same conclusion. I do not personally say that 'Toc H is a Christian based charity' but I DO say 'Toc H is a Christian organisation'. I cannot see what is wrong with that!

The other members of my branch agree with me. I wonder what other members feel.

AMY LUKE
Ipswich

* Editors Note: This resource paper, entitled 'What do you say?' tries to suggest ways of answering the question 'What is Toc H?' Available from Toc H Central Services, Wendover.

VIEW FROM SOUTH AFRICA

(Extracts from a letter from Alec Bullivant, who has recently become Director of Toc H South Africa. It was written to Ruth Boyd, the former Editor.)

'...You may recall that I edited 'Compass' for a number of yearsI do, of course, receive *Point three* direct from you and would like to continue to do soI applaud the decision to change the method of financing of *Point three*. I always insisted that Compass was distributed free of charge so that no member could say they could not afford it. Our donation system, while never quite covering costs, has always been well supported May I say how impressed I am with the 'new look' of *Point three*, which I read from cover to cover, often more than once. My best wishes to you all.....

.....Incidentally, I have been a member of Toc H for 65 years, and must be one of the few remaining members who was actually initiated by Tubby

ALEC BULLIVANT
Port Elizabeth

Welcome

TO 13 NEW MEMBERS

- Stephen White, Bridlington
- Bernadette Beardsmore, Christopher Beardsmore, Keith Brownbill, Maureen Brownbill, Norma Buckley, Ann Hall Halton
- Arthur Cross Hemel Hempstead
 - Roy Roberts Llandudno
 - Michael Nice Old Colwyn
 - Marie Rigg Saltford
- Kathrien Kestier, Filip Vanderbeken
Tubby's Poperinge

ADRIAN DUDMAN

With so many recent redundancies from the staff, due to the major restructuring, it seems invidious to pick out any one from the many former staff members who have worked hard and loyally for Toc H. However, it is right that we say a special farewell, and thank-you, to one of these - Adrian Dudman. Adrian, who has been on the staff for over thirty years, during which time he did a stint as General Secretary, has given service that can only be described as utterly selfless and devoted - and Toc H owes him a huge debt of gratitude. He will, of course, remain a personal friend to many as well as an active member of Toc H - but we shall miss his staff role grievously. We wish him, and Anne who has supported him so much over the years, every happiness in the future.

Adrian's picture is on the front cover of this issue, together with Jeanne Battbieu of Poperinge.

Farewell to the Cleveland Staff Team



Photo: Suzanne Dunwell

Cleveland District said farewell to the Cleveland Staff Team recently at a buffet lunch in Middlesbrough. The Team came to an end as part of the Staff Restructuring process, reported in *Point three* in April. Marilyn Surtees and Sue Huddleston have accepted redundancy, and John Dunwell has moved across to be one of the two Divisional Development Officers in the new Division 1 team.

Tributes

We announce, with regret, the deaths of the following members.

MAY: Edith Allport, Lyme Bay / 'George' Charleston, Honiton / Phyllis Copeland, Birmingham
Gladys Holmes, Melton Mowbray / Elsie Norbury, Stockport / Sibyl Owen, Elmstead
Rita Pyne, Linthorpe / Vera Wood, Weymouth

NOT PREVIOUSLY Alice Aspinall, Rochdale / Albert Pyne, Alvechurch / Eve Raymond, Haywain Dist.,

RECORDED: John 'Vic' Silvester, Borough Green

We regret to have to announce the death of Gladys Hickman, MBE, of Paris Branch. She died on 15th March, just a few weeks before her 100th birthday, after several long years of illness. Until her husband's death in 1986, Gladys, as well as being a valued member of Toc H, was active in the wider British community in Paris, especially involved with the Victoria Home and the Hertford British Hospital. She was awarded her MBE for her services to the British Community. She was also an accomplished pianist. JP

We announce with regret the death of Alice Aspinall, of Rochdale Women's branch. on April 11th. Alice was well loved by all who knew her, and will be sadly missed. IW


Edith Holmes, who died on 9th May, had been a member of Toc H for many years in the former Maidenhead Branch, of which she was Treasurer for a time. She was formerly the Queen's Housekeeper at Windsor Castle, and was personally decorated by the Queen on her retirement. DP

Bert Pyne, one of the founder members of Alvechurch Branch, died on 13th March 1996. Bert was a real Branch stalwart and was Treasurer for a number of

years. He was a quiet and unassuming man who did much good work in his local Rowney Green community, and was a good servant of the Methodist Church. He will be greatly missed. JH

Gladys Holmes died on 26 May aged 87. She was a most loyal member and officer of Melton Mowbray (W) Branch right from early days in the Toc H Women's Association. Until failing health in recent years, she was an active worker at branch and district level, together with her late husband Willoughby, and both were regular visitors to Dor Knap and Alison House. She was sister to George Atkinson, late staff member in South Wales and Warden at Dor Knap. She had a great love for family and friends and will be long remembered with affection by all who knew her. DC

It is with much sadness and regret that we, at Elmstead Joint Branch, pay tribute to Sibyl 'Tiny' Owen, who died in May after being in poor health for some time. She had been a member of the Branch since 1960, and the 'Spirit' of Toc H was a great influence on her way of life. Sibyl was Branch Chairman for a number of years and welcomed us to her home for our Meetings until she fractured her hip two years ago. She will be sadly missed, and we send our sympathy to her sister and two sons and their families. MB



**TOC H
Needs Legacies**

TOC H may have meant a lot to you over the years. Can you help young people take up the TOC H challenge by leaving a legacy?

For more information?
Mike Lyddiard, Director
TOC H, 1 Forest Close,
Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT

Registered Charity No: 211042

TOC H advertises for Legacies

This legacy advertisement appeared in three copies of the Church Times, Methodist Recorder, Baptist Times and Church of England Newspaper in May and June.

The advertisement is aimed at people who have been touched by TOC H in the past. People like Gladys who recently wrote to Wendover saying: "Please accept this cheque in thanks for

giving me a room in Farnborough in 1944 when I was desperately alone."

There are countless people who have enjoyed the friendship and practical concern of TOC H members and

Branches over the decades. Some of them will want to acknowledge this with a donation or legacy. The advertisement will give them a point of contact.

- Last year TOC H received 10 legacies from people we had no previous contact with.
- A very large donation a few years ago came from someone whose mother was given a food parcel by a TOC H branch many years earlier. There was no other contact with the movement.
- The legacies advertisements are deliberately small to keep costs to a minimum and allows us to place them more frequently. (£50 per placement)
- We still have copies of our 'Guide to Wills and Legacies' available on request.
- If you have suggestions where we should place further advertisements please let me know.

Ian Pearce
National Fundraising Officer

SCULPTURE FROM CUDDESDON CHAPEL

With the sale of Cuddesdon House, we now have to look at the disposal of various items, including the contents of the Chapel. I am thinking particularly of the metal sculpture of the figure of Christ the King, and would welcome any offers or suggestions for a good home for this.

Alan Johnson

CORRECTION FAXES TO IEPER

Our May issue reported the Induction of the Revd Alan Brannagan to St George's Memorial Church, Ieper. Please note that Alan's new fax number is **057-215927**

BEDS, BUCKS, HERTS & WESTERN APPROACHES

are holding a Rally at the Rickmansworth site of special interest to Toc H on 12th October.

More details will, of course, be published nearer the date, but please make a diary entry. Banjo Band enthusiasts will be especially welcome.

ANY PROBLEM IS NO PROBLEM - THE STORY OF PRIDEAUX HOUSE, HACKNEY

BY KEN PRIDEAUX-BRUNE
GRAND BOOK LAUNCH

AT PRIDEAUX HOUSE AT 3PM AND FAMILY REUNION

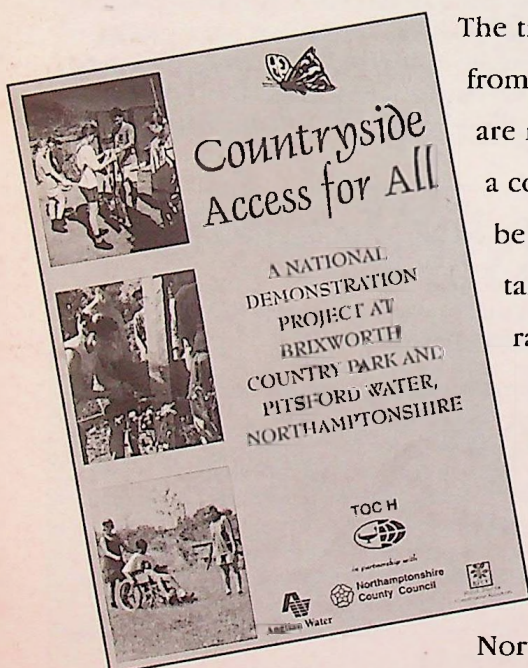
SATURDAY 13TH JULY, 1996 11.00am - 6.00pm

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND LUNCH AVAILABLE • FAIR, SIDESHOWS AND SILENT AUCTION
A SUPER DAY FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS !!!

For further information and booking forms contact:

Prideaux House, 10 Church Crescent, London, E9 7DL Tel: 0181-986 6000

BRIXWORTH 'COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL'



The truly exciting and ambitious project has been awarded a grant from the Millennium Commission, which is paid when milestones are reached. Toc H is the voluntary sector of the partnership and a condition of the grant is that an equal amount of money has to be raised. Members and friends are working hard to reach the target by 2000 A.D. Since May 1995 nearly £16,000 has been raised in cash and kind.

Prayers and help, whether financial or practical, from members further afield would be very welcome. There is a new leaflet, just produced, which is available for those wishing to help. Copies, and other details, from Mrs Megan Graham (Secretary), 7 Upper Park Avenue, Rushden, Northants, NN10 9NY Tel/Fax: (01933) 56671.

Written and produced by TOC H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.
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